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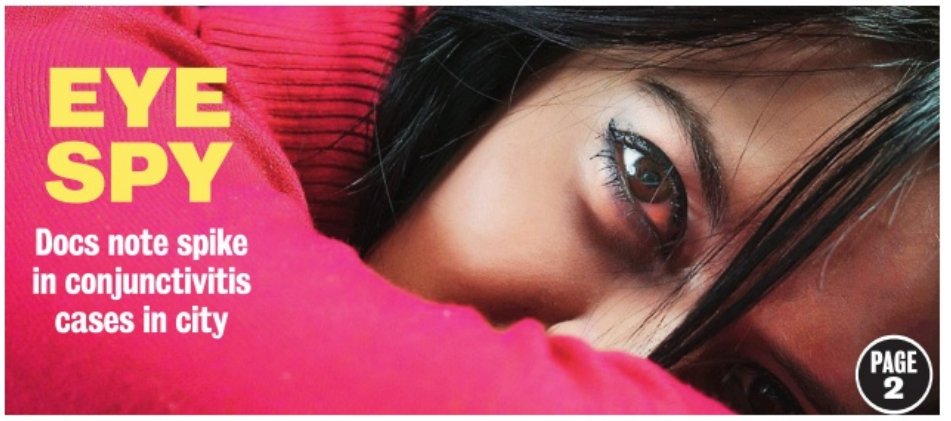
Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 19 | Humidity 67% Partly Cloudy Sensex 66,160 | Nifty 19,646 | Gold 59,236 | Silver 74,121 | Dollar [illegible] | GBP 105.73



EYE SPY

Docs note spike in conjunctivitis cases in city

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BRIBE JIBE

Only inspectors can penalise drunk drivers from now on

PAGE 3

From April 2022 to March 2023, biodiversity board sent 227 companies notices asking them to implement access benefit sharing, of which 150 decided to ignore the rule

CORPORATE SOCIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY

Some companies even legally challenged Board's role

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka Biodiversity Board (KBB) is facing strong headwinds in implementing the Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) rule of the Biological Biodiversity (BD) Act, 2002. Between April 2022 and March 2023, KBB sent 227 notices to various companies asking them to comply with the rule. However, over 150 have not stayed in line.

As per the BD Act, no person is allowed to obtain biological resources for commercial utilisation without prior intimation to the state biodiversity board, which is KBB. However, KBB officials say that the Board's role in determining the terms and conditions of ABS has been legally challenged by some companies that were served with notices for non-compliance.

"The majority of the companies are not paying access fees under ABS. This is despite KBB serving them with legal notices of non-compliance. This is mainly because many companies are awaiting for the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill to be passed in both houses so they are exempted from the rule. However, even if passed in both houses and getting

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"There are thousands of companies that are commercially utilising biological resources. Only 227 notices in one year is a low number. Most of them are not aware of the rules or have very superficial knowledge

–Vijay Nishant, founder, Project Vruksha

Let's carpool...

Carpooling good option for ORR company employees, but shift to public transport more effective, experts say

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) had recently suggested encouraging carpooling initiatives by companies on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) in order to reduce the number of vehicles plying on roads. Since most companies are mandating work-from-office again and moving away from the hybrid model, the city's ORR from Central Silk Board and KR Puram is likely going to witness a surge in traffic congestion. Experts are of the opinion that while carpooling may help and must be incentivised, employers must make a move to shift their workers' mode of commute to public transport.

According to a report submitted by the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA), 6.4 lakh employees are commuting between Silk Board and KR Puram while using 3.3 lakh vehicles which include both personal cars and cabs. As much as 70% of these vehicles are either privately owned cars or yellow board vehicles while the rest 30% are two-wheelers.

Rajkumar Dugar, founder of C4C and public transport enthusiast, said that time constraints and interpersonal relationships act as a big factor for carpooling to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Get the best

Don't miss out on the chance to visit the Rajasthan Handloom and Handicrafts Exhibition, which features a vast collection of cotton and silk handlooms from Karnataka and other states. You can get your hands on a variety of jewellery, such as silver, Kundan, meenakari, precious and semi-precious gemstones, paintings, leathercraft, and more.

Where: Someshwara Sabha Bhavan, RBI Layout, JP Nagar 7th Phase
When: until August 4

02 Theatre acts

Grab the chance to watch Manasa Putra, a play by the troupe Kalavilasi. The play is based on the biography of renowned Kannada writer Beechi, Nanna Bhayaagrapi. It's directed by Basavaraj Emmiyavar.

Where: KH Kalasoudha, Hanumanthanagar
When: Today; 7:30 pm to 9 pm; contact: 9663523904

03 Gaming space

Get ready to be part of a 2-day gaming festival that is being hosted by S8UL, India's top esports and gaming organisation. S8UL is organising with popular gamers such as Mortal, ScoutOP, Regaltos, PayalGaming, KaashPlays, Mavi, Snax, and more. The event is being co-hosted by The Esports Club and sponsored by Lenovo and Intel. There's no entry fee.

Where: Manpho Convention Centre
When: Today and tomorrow; 10 am–7 pm

Red and watery eyes? Don't take it easy

City hospitals report sudden surge in conjunctivitis cases among all age groups

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru is witnessing a sudden spurt in conjunctivitis cases across all age groups. Doctors at multiple city hospitals say it is like an epidemic and could be due to the sudden change in the weather and frequent rainfall.

"There has been an increase in conjunctivitis cases all over India and also in Bengaluru. Our hospital has seen a 60% rise in patients over the last three to four days. This can be due to changes in weather conditions," said Pallavi Joshi from Sankara Eye Hospital.

BGS Gleneagles Global Hospitals, yet another private hospital in the city, confirmed the surge in conjunctivitis cases. According to the hospital, the number of patients with the infection has gone up by 15-20 per cent. While the infection is prevalent in all age groups, more adults are suffering from it.

"We are getting at least three to four patients with the infection daily. This surge can be due to the acute rise in viral respiratory infections, which are part of the same spectrum. Conjunctivitis is highly contagious and spreads to family members easily. It is advised to rest and isolate to avoid spreading. However, people should note that it does not spread by looking into an infected person's eyes," said Dr Chetna T Nayak from BGS Gleneagles Global Hospitals.

Manipal Hospital says approximately 40% of the patients have been diagnosed with the pink eye infection. This means four out of every ten patients are affected. Moreover, there has been a noticeable surge in the number of cases over the past three to four days.

Doctors say the majority of the contagious variants are due to a viral infection that spreads from human to human

"We have not observed any particular age group that is specifically affected. Anyone from a newborn to an 80-year-old can acquire the infection. However, recently, we did have an instance where a 60-year-old individual visited the outpatient department. Conjunctivitis is also seasonal, and there tends to be an increase in cases during seasonal changes. The good news is that most cases of conjunctivitis improve within five to seven days. Only about one out of 10 patients may experience complications, like corneal involvement, which can take longer to heal. But for the majority, it should resolve within a week," said Dr Sangeetha Rao, an ophthalmologist at Manipal Hospital Yeshwanthpur and Malleshwaram.

Doctors say the majority of the contagious variants are due to a viral infection that spreads from human to human when in contact with eye secretions. Conjunctivitis cases are associated with viral prodromes like a sore throat and fever. Common symptoms include redness, itching, and a foreign body sensation in the eye.

"Consult an ophthalmologist immediately instead of using over-the-counter medication. Early treatment can reduce corneal involvement and potential complications affecting vision. Notably, conjunctivitis is not spread through eye contact with an infected person. However, the eye secretions can be contagious for at least 5 to 10 days," explained Joshi.

> **"We have not observed any particular age group that is specifically affected. Anyone from a newborn to an 80-year-old can get affected** –Dr S Rao

Furthermore, experts say people who contract conjunctivitis should isolate themselves, as it is highly contagious. It is advisable to take time off from work and keep children out of school to rest. Use sanitizer whenever you touch the eye, and wash your clothes separately. Seeking advice from an ophthalmologist and starting treatment promptly is crucial.

"Maintaining hand hygiene is important, as contaminated hands are how conjunctivitis spreads. Moreover, staying at home is essential to stop the infection from spreading. Those infected should avoid sharing personal items like eye makeup and towels. Patients should also change pillow covers often and use only clean clothes. Since it is contagious, people should avoid close contact with people who have conjunctivitis," said Dr Ashwin Santosh Shetty, consultant – ophthalmology, Aster CMI Hospital.

'Reward employees for carpooling, using public transport'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be a success. He added that since the phenomenon cannot be enforced by the traffic police or companies, authorities must work towards incentivising the behaviour. "They can create an application or use any other form to keep track of those who are carpooling. These people can be incentivised in some form, at least until the employees see the benefits of carpooling themselves," he said.

The traffic police have also suggested providing shuttle bus services between Central Silk Board and KR Puram for employees at ORR. Currently, the Electronics City Industrial Township Authority (ECITA) is providing six free shuttle buses both for employees and residents in the area. Four buses are designated for pick up and drop facilities for employees between Silk Institute metro station and Electronic City while two ply around the vicinity. The cops want a similar scenario to be replicated on the ORR as it would also shift the focus of workers towards travel through public transport.

Need public transport

"Carpooling is an inadequate solution. Not everyone will be able to carpool either. It will not significantly reduce traffic. I believe what we need is a significant shift to public transport, especially buses," said Shaheen Shasa, from Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV). "Tech parks and other high-density employment hubs providing common transport solutions for all companies or firms in their campus can also help. However, they should not contract BMTC buses during peak hours as it affects the availability of buses for the general public. They can contract or operate their own services as their social responsibility and commitment to the city they profit from," she added.

> **The traffic police have suggested providing shuttle bus services**

Koushik NK, an IT employee, said that an incentive by corporates to carpool will definitely help change the behaviour of employees. "There are times when I park my two-wheeler at a friend's house and then we drive to work in his car. However, this instance is very rare. If the company is willing to incentivise us even with something as mere as a shopping coupon, there may be a change in attitudes," he said.

Boarding denied: Governor's office lodges complaint

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot found himself at the centre of a dispute on Thursday when he was denied boarding on an AIX Connect flight, a subsidiary of Air India, allegedly due to a 'delay' in reporting. The incident took place at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport and resulted in the Governor's office lodging a complaint, citing a 'breach of protocol'. The airline issued an apology on Friday in response to the situation.

According to the complaint filed by Governor Gehlot's Protocol Officer M Venugopal, the Governor was scheduled to fly to Hyderabad from Terminal-2 on AIX Connect's flight number IS 972 at 2.05 pm on Thursday. However, despite the Governor's luggage already being loaded onto the plane, he was not allowed to board.

The complaint details that the protocol officer had made all necessary arrangements for the Governor's boarding and had informed the relevant personnel accordingly.

Upon reaching the ladder of the aircraft at 2.06 pm, an AirAsia (AIX Connect) employee named Arif denied entry to the Governor, citing a delay in arrival, even though the plane's door was still open. This delay caused the Governor's luggage to be unloaded, resulting in a ten-minute delay. Despite the Governor being present near the ladder with the door open, he was not allowed to board, leading to feelings of insult and disregard, as described in the complaint by Venugopal.

Sources said that Gehlot had to wait an additional 90 minutes before finally boarding another flight to Hyderabad. The complaint emphasises the significance of the incident, as the Governor holds a prominent position as the first citizen of Karnataka, the incident is considered a breach of protocol. As a response, the complainants have demanded legal action against AIX Connect Station Manager Zico Soares, Arif, and AirAsia (AIX Connect).

The airline expressed sincere regret over the incident and assured the public that a thorough investigation is underway. Appropriate action will be taken as a result of the investigation. Furthermore, the senior leadership team of the airline is actively engaging with the Governor's Office to address the concerns. **-BMB**

Inspectors are in charge here

Police top brass decides to authorise just inspectors to penalise drunk drivers

Sridhar Vivan &
Ahna Prakash
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Acting on complaints of bribery during drunken driving checking, police top brass have decided to authorise only inspectors to collect fines. This results in removing the authority previously held by sub-inspectors and assistant sub-inspectors.

This decision comes as a response to allegations of corruption and misconduct by some lower-level officers. Senior officials said that the move is to bring transparency and accountability to the process and curb corrupt practices.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anuchet said, "The change was made in response to numerous complaints about corruption in penalising drunken driving cases. Prior to this change, lower-level staff were accused of being involved in extorting bribes from motorists instead of issuing fines. To address this issue, inspectors have been solely entrusted with the responsibility of registering cases related to drunken driving, ensuring a transparent process."

Meanwhile, to streamline the process of checking motorists for drunken driving, Bengaluru's 48 traffic police stations conduct inspections at a designated single point instead of having multiple points within each station. These checkpoints are regularly rotated to cover various areas effectively. Additionally, the Traffic Department has modified tactics to combat corruption. Only inspectors are now given the authority to book drunken driving cases. Inspectors are required to inform seniors about the time and location of special drives, which may occur twice a week. Police officers are instructed to wear body cameras during these drives and to treat drivers with professionalism to minimise unnecessary confrontations.

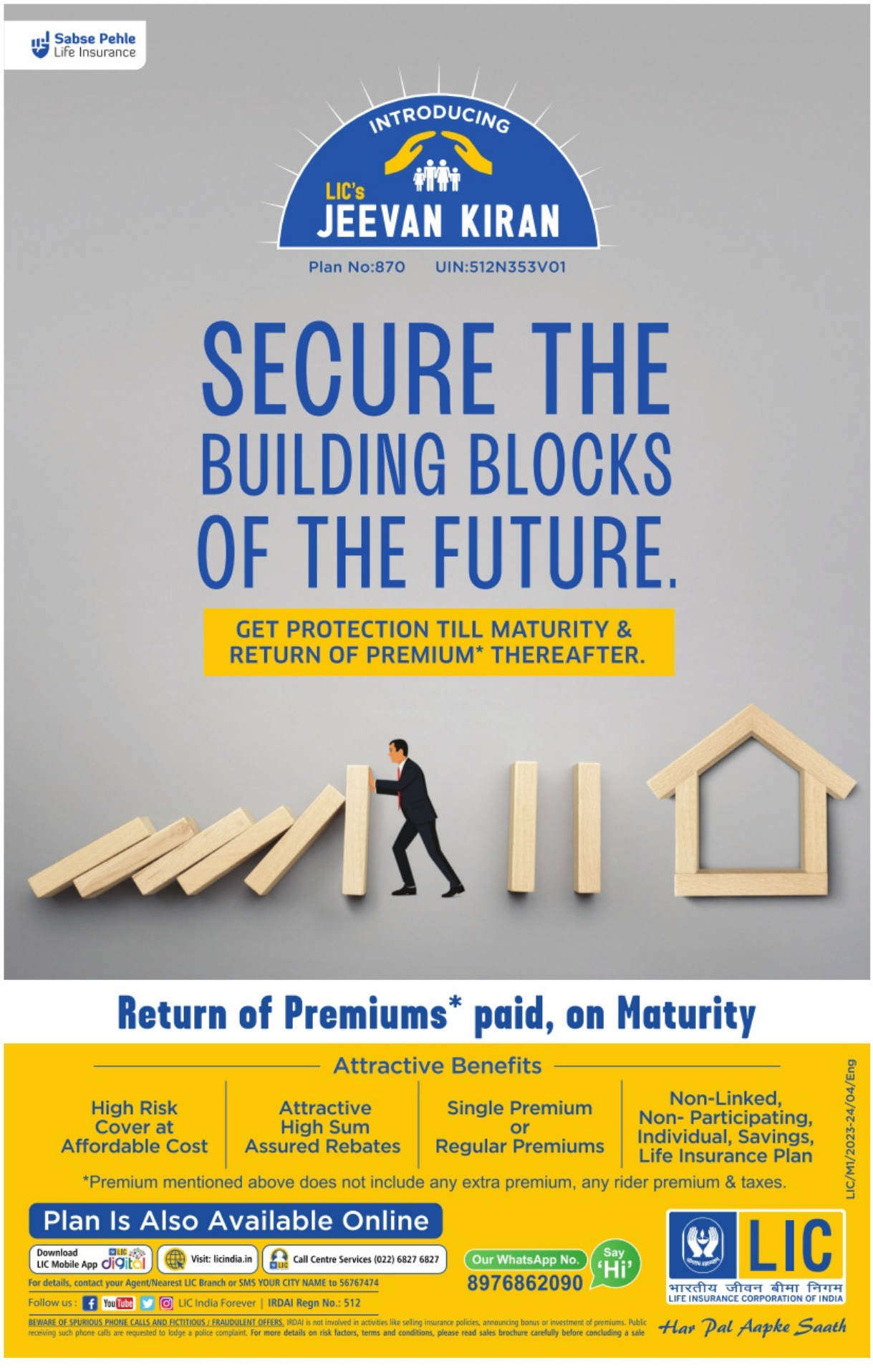
File photo of policemen using a breathalyser to check for drink driving

"The change was made in response to numerous complaints about corruption in penalising drink driving cases. This will make the process fairer

–MN Anuchet, JtCP, Traffic

Constable suspended

A complaint was lodged through the QR code against Constable Sivakuma of Parappana Agrahara police station for accepting a bribe of Rs. 500 during passport verification. Following complaints, the constable was suspended. The QR code system has received positive responses from citizens, providing a convenient and effective way for them to voice grievances and experiences regarding police station functioning. "QR codes have been installed at the entrance of each police station, allowing residents to scan and file complaints anonymously, thus strengthening public trust and creating a proactive partnership between the police force and the citizens they serve. DCP (South East) CK Baba is leading the charge in the South Division for this transformative QR code initiative, which is now deployed across all police stations in the city," said a senior official.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Terminal velocity

What does a shift in terminology mean for the world? Does it herald a new way of approaching certain topical realities? In earnest it should but fact is it is rather limited to the echo chambers spilling into the real world from the digital cacophony. For instance the UN chief just declared the world has entered the 'era of boiling'. Not so long ago the climate crisis was alternatively also addressed as the climate emergency. The intent behind this gradual transformation in terminology to effect an immediacy to the challenges at hand is surely in the right direction, but does it succeed in communicating the concerns to the most vulnerable at the frontlines of crises?

Likewise, the longevity of the human race could have been easier now to salvage if only we had aligned a bit more closely to the forces of nature as other organisms did through millennia of evolutionary adaptations. Now whatever said and done, no doubt it is a 'bit late'; we are already on the precipice of multiple challenges even as the ultra rich countable few are busy ring-fencing their virtual empires calling it X, Y or Z in what looks like a death scramble before all of it comes crashing down in a bizarre turn of climatic anomalies which is highly likely if you will.

Now that said, if radicalism was ever needed it is now come to think of it. There were always times when rather brilliant ideas were junked for their oddities and inability to fit into the ethos of the times. Now it feels as though a time machine into the future has delivered us to that place where every other idea that sounded far ahead of its time just years ago certainly feels like the need of the hour. In such a short span, the world has come to a head as we hear that as early as 2025 the ocean currents that regulate the global climate may just collapse, throwing the world as we know it into a bizarre spin of erratic weather day in and day out.

To digress, the tragic demise of Sinead O'Connor for instance. The flame that she was painfully, gracefully, eloquently delivering through her music, activism and life itself is something humanity would miss perhaps tens of thousands of years after she's departed. In a way she also represented the kind of prevalent social confusion that years of collective evolution has brought us to which renders certain souls adrift unable to anchor as the vice and vile tighten their grimholds over public commons, which we are afraid have us right now in the grip of this gloomy predicament.

So what kind of governments or administrations or political leadership do we need at the moment to save us from the brink? If one isn't able to decipher this is the most critical question of the day, our chances as a species are bleak. It is already quite bleak you see. The climate niche, polar seed banks or escape to space or what have you, nothing's gonna come to our rescue if we do not toe nature's line now. Do we want dispensations that function for the interest of multinational corporations that are far too few today fuelling unimaginable inequity or do we want humane leaders? The latter of course.

Globally the emergence of green parties was indeed a welcome sign at a certain point. Mainstreaming such movements never became a priority or possibility if you like as there were always lobbies that were wary of them: for instance we see oil rich Arab nations appropriating the whole climate complex.

Movements such as the Extinction Rebellion or Fridays for Future do present us with the earnest intent of the generations to come, but we are still light years away from understanding the scale of the catastrophe that is hurtling towards us and the entire scheme of life on earth.

Diogenes and the Greek ideal of honesty come to mind in a world gradually being swallowed by calamities of all sorts while those seemingly in charge wave and smile, and look the other way. That the idea of democracy was envisaged to ensure, at least on the surface, some sort of semblance of justice and equality worked for a while; though flawed an idea, at present the system has been tweaked to benefit the corporations that find the political establishment in a quid-pro-quo.

So how does the penniless pariah of the global south figure in the grander scheme of things? They don't.

Back home when the norms that make the rules of the forest that date back to almost 40 years are tweaked to make way for so-called development 'which we cannot do without at the moment', the elephants, tigers and few remaining rhinos sigh even as indigenous communities are caught in this man vs wild tussle.

QR code during bus breakdown? An idea

Commuters' thumbs-up to Delhi plan; BMTC says it doesn't see many breakdowns

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

File photo of a BMTC bus that broke down in the middle of the road

The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) came up with a unique idea to ensure that breakdown of buses in the middle of the city's roads does not result in traffic congestion in collaboration with a startup – use QR codes. In case of any breakdown, the bus driver can scan the QR code for assistance. Such a measure is necessary with the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) too, say commuters.

Amit Khale, the DTC's chief manager, has said that the initiative would allow the corporation to maintain a real-time database on the time taken to clear out the bus from the breakdown spot. Through scanning the QR code, the bus driver will be able to send a message to the designated control room. After receiving the details regarding the incident, the control room is supposed to initiate action of bus removal within 30 minutes.

Shashi, a frequent commuter, said that big vehicles such as a BMTC bus can cause much traffic congestion in case an incident such as a breakdown occurs. "It is best for them to have an easy mechanism to address such issues, which will also enable them to keep a track record, further helping them to better themselves. A QR code system to alert the control room is necessary. In a city infamous for its traffic, a breakdown of a bus is a nightmare," he said. He added that the corporation must take measures to avoid the breakdowns in the first place – such as frequent maintenance after spotting faulty buses and replacement of old buses.

Commuters feel city traffic is way too congested as is, without a stuck bus in the picture

A senior official with the BMTC said that the corporation does not come across as many breakdowns as in Delhi. "Since Delhi has CNG buses, at least 10% of its fleet sees constant breakdowns but even breakdowns on a daily basis within our corporation is negligible. However, we track the breakdowns through the Intelligent Transport System (ITS) and have grown to reduce them significantly," he said.

KBB not doing enough to go after defaulters, say experts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the President's assent, some grey areas will have to be addressed by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)," said a senior KBB official.

The amendment recently passed in Lok Sabha aims to encourage the Indian system of medicine apart from ensuring ease of business through the commercial utilisation of biological resources.

According to the experts, companies have overlooked the ABS rule due to a lack of awareness. While the guidelines on access to biological resources and associated knowledge and benefit-sharing regulations were notified by NBA in 2014, there has not been rigorous implementation of the rule.

KBB lax?

Experts also opine that KBB has not been on its toes when it comes to serving defaulters with legal notices.

"There are thousands of companies that are commercially utilising biological resources. Only 227 notices in one year is a low number. Most of them are not aware of the rules or have very superficial knowledge. The Board has not taken an effort to reach out to the industries. Only a handful of workshops are being organised," said Vijay Nishant, founder, Project Vruksha and member of Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC).

During 2021-22, KBB sent 158 notices against non-paying companies and Industries.

According to Akshay Heblikar, founder of Eco Watch and another member of Bengaluru's BMC, KBB should ensure compliance by mandating companies that use genetic resources and biological material to obtain licenses after ABS fee payment.

"There are ways to ensure compliance. BD Act is a central act and KBB can come up with rules along the lines of ISO certification or FSSAI certification to ensure companies fall in line. The Board can spread awareness among the customers about it through media channels including KBB's social media handles. Once such rules are put in place, companies will automatically start complying. Being a government agency, there is no dearth of funds to carry out awareness activities," said Heblikar.

KBB officials say workshops on BD Act and ABS schemes are being organised regularly by involving stakeholders. However, since the rule is relatively new, it will take time for the industry to start complying.

"We are updating both the industry stakeholders as well as BMCs about the rule. We also talk to them about the usage of ABS-generated funds. We make them aware that the money will be used for various biodiversity conservation measures. There has been some success in creating goodwill between the Board and the industry. The number of companies complying with ABS rule has also increased marginally," said the official.

Bengaluru BMC non-functional

According to KBB, the ABS fund being generated is hardly being used owing to non-functional BMCs. In 2021-22, KBB generated an ABS amount of Rs. 33.4 lakh through 30 ABS-complying companies across the state. However, the majority of this fund is lying unused.

"Many BMCs are not functioning regularly as local bodies are not aware of various rules under the BD Act, 2002. For instance, the People's Biodiversity Register, a repository of local biodiversity, should be created and then updated every five years. However, while PBR of Bengaluru was created in 2009, it has not been updated even once after that. This is because the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has not called for a BMC meeting so far. Thus Bengaluru's BMC has not been active and in no need of funds," said the official.

Unused pocket space converted into park

A new child-friendly park has opened in Bengaluru, thanks to a collaboration between the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) and the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC). The park, called Puttani Park, is located in a low-income neighbourhood and was created by transforming an unused pocket space. The park is designed to help children develop their cognitive, physical, and social skills through slides, swings, and other sensorial equipment.

The Puttani Park designed in collaboration with Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) and KSRTC.

Residents of the city have often complained of a lack of spaces dedicated for children to rejoice. However, the restoration of the 'Putani Train' in Bal Bhavan, Cubbon Park, brought a sigh of relief to parents and children. A collaborative effort between Bengaluru Smart City Limited and South Western Railway (SWR), involved repairing the train tracks and reviving the park, which had remained unused for several years. Alongside, the authorities also restored the island which was built for boating and have also introduced various activities for children such as a science park.

Venkatesh, a resident in the neighbourhood, said, "Such spaces are very much necessary as children in the current times do away with their time on digital gadgets. It is very important for them to interact among their peers, outside the virtual world." He added that the project must be extended across the city.

"Vacant spaces that often become grounds for garbage dumping can be used for this purpose. While the government may not reap any revenue from such initiatives, they will definitely help in providing a space of joy for children from lower groups," he said. **-BMB**

Snapshots from children's world, just as they see it

Two-day workshop for wastepickers' kids to showcase their stories through photos

New photographers share their community stories

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a heartwarming initiative to provide a platform for the children from waste-picking communities in and around Bengaluru, a two-day photography workshop was recently organised. The workshop aimed to empower these young minds to showcase their perspectives and shed light on the challenges faced by them and their families within the waste-picker community.

Twenty enthusiastic children from various waste-picking communities, including Kuntigrama, Deshiyanagara, Coolie Nagar, Sakambarinagara, Cement Colony, Vinobha Nagara, and Pantarapalya, were equipped with cameras to capture their world, just the way they see it. The two-day photography workshop was led by professional documentary photographer Vinod Sabastian in association with Bal Raksha Bharat, one of the partners of Saamuhika Shakti.

The photos clicked by these talented children will be showcased in multiple art galleries. Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath and Namma Metro have partnered with Bal Raksha Bharat to provide art galleries for the exhibition, scheduled for September and October 2023.

Praveen, one of the participants, expressed his gratitude, saying, "The Photovoice project not only provided me with training but also practical experience through Photowalk. I have learned so much about my community's sense of belonging, warmth, and the challenges we face. I want to share the stories of my community through photography."

The profound impact of this workshop on the young participants is evident in their heartfelt expressions of gratitude, as it taught them how to handle a camera and enabled them to capture meaningful pictures.

Devika from Kuntigrama, told BM that she completed PU and wanted to pursue higher studies. "The workshop helped me a lot. I took many pictures," said Devika.

Swathi, another participant, said that the Photovoice project provided the long-awaited opportunity to pursue her dream of becoming a photojournalist, she wanted to be a photojournalist since her school days.

NM Chandrasekara, senior programme manager, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Bal Raksha Bharat, said, "Amidst these difficult circumstances, photography emerges as a ray of hope, offering them an opportunity to access their rights to play, culture, and the arts. Through the power of photography, the children are encouraged to capture the essence of their lives, experiences, and community."

Organisations are implementing a project to promote healthy living among children from waste-picking families and neighbouring communities.

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MNC investments to charge up realty sector around B'luru

As city expands towards outskirts, Bengalureans are betting big on property and new investments are likely to create significant growth

Big-ticket projects around Bengaluru are set to fuel realty growth. In recent weeks, talks of many top companies planning to invest in and around Bengaluru have surfaced. As the city expands towards the outskirts, Bengalureans are betting big on property, and these new investments are likely to create significant growth.

Recently, the leadership team of Marubeni Corporation from Japan, keen to set up a high-tech industrial park on 720 acres at Bavanahalli near Vemagal of Kolar district, met with large and medium industries minister MB Patil. The minister said, "The government is eager to take forward the project, and related decisions will be taken after convening a high-level meeting." The company representatives made a presentation, stating that the initial investment for the project is estimated to be Rs. 2,800 Crores. They added, "This, in turn, would bring Rs. 8,000 Crores in the form of FDI (foreign direct investment), taking the total investment to over Rs. 10,000 Crore and generating 40,000 jobs. In all, it would add 2 Billion Dollars to the economy of Karnataka." They also informed during the meeting that the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan (MEIT, Japan) had approved the feasibility report on the project. Marubeni Corporation, headquartered in Tokyo, has developed high-tech industrial parks in countries such as China, Thailand, and the Philippines. The company caters to the needs of social infrastructure, health, and wellness, identifying digital strategy, innovation strategy, smart city, and decarbonization as key sectors.

On the other hand, iPhone maker Foxconn has proposed to set up another supplementary plant to the existing unit at Devanahalli ITIR region. As per the proposal, Foxconn Industrial Internet (Fii), a subsidiary of Foxconn, plans to invest Rs. 8,800 Crore, creating 14,000 jobs. The required land for the project is about 100 acres. The company delegates were taken to Tumakuru to examine the available land at Japan Industrial Township. Fii will engage in manufacturing screens and outer coverings, along with making mechanical components needed for phones.

This plant will operate as a supplementary unit to the end assembly unit at Devanahalli. State Government officials stated that the State owns an ecosystem to enable the growth of industries and added, "There exists coordination between academia and industries." Assuring that the government would take the initiative to provide human resources with the required skill sets, the minister offered the leadership team of the company led by its CEO Brand Cheng to set up the unit in the state. Patil further added, "The legal hurdles related to providing 300 acres of land to iPhone maker Foxconn have been resolved, and the land will be handed over soon to the company."

"If there are companies around Bengaluru, then many Bengalureans may shift base to outskirts so that they can own a plot, build their dream home, which is not possible in congested core areas

Meanwhile, Tata Technologies has come forward to set up three Common Engineering Facilities Centers (CEFCs) in the state by investing Rs. 2,000 crore. Representatives of the leadership team of the company recently met large and medium industries minister MB Patil at Vidhana Sabha on Wednesday and submitted the proposal. The minister stated that the company intends to set up these centers to facilitate the MSMEs.

The proposal is to set up the centers through the PPP model, where Tata Technologies will have 70% stakes, and the rest 30% stakes will be that of the state government. This is claimed to be the first proposal for setting up such centers for MSMEs. Each center is estimated to cost about Rs. 630 crores. The CEF centers will cater to Advanced Manufacturing 4.0, Electric Vehicle Testing, and Aerospace & Defense and vastly benefit the upcoming MSMEs and startups in these sectors.

A realtor said, "Job opportunities are a key factor in migration. If there are companies around Bengaluru, then many Bengalureans may shift their base to outskirts so that they can own a plot, build their dream home, which is not possible in congested core areas of Bengaluru. This helps in easier movement to office space, thereby saving a lot of time on traffic. Overall, the current interest by MNCs is a good development and is sure to fuel property growth."

—Prakash VL

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Proactive tips to prevent water damage to your home

Water damage in homes is not solely caused by catastrophic events like hurricanes and floods. Often, even seemingly minor issues like pinhole-sized leaks in pipes, poorly graded soil, blocked gutters, or malfunctioning sump pumps can lead to significant damage. It's crucial for homeowners to recognise that many instances of water damage can be prevented with simple remedies, making it essential for do-it-yourselfers to take proactive steps to safeguard their properties.

Safeguarding your home for water leakages from inside

Preserving your financial resources is vital, and one way to achieve this is by staying vigilant about water consumption. Keep a close eye on your monthly water bills to gain insights into your typical water usage. If you notice a sudden and substantial increase in your bill without any apparent explanation, it's essential to investigate further for potential leaks.

An efficient sump pump

A sump pump serves as a crucial safeguard, primarily located in the basement or crawl space, to protect your home from rising groundwater or potential interior flooding. Functioning as the last line of defence, it acts promptly when water levels rise within its circular sump pit. The buoyant float triggers the connected electric motor, initiating the pumping process that channels water out of your home, similar to a boat's bilge pump redirecting water to a more suitable area. To ensure your sump pump operates effectively, regular maintenance checks are essential.

Using detection devices

Water detection devices, and compact electronic gadgets, serve as invaluable guardians, warning you of potential leaks or flooding in your property. By promptly alerting you to these issues, they enable you to take swift action, minimising the risk of costly repairs and damage. To ensure full coverage, strategically position these water detectors near household appliances that are prone to leaks.

PEX Pipes

Many older homes boast copper piping, which served as the standard for decades. However, due to inherent issues associated with this material, its use has been phased out for valid reasons. Over time, soldered joints and corrosion can lead to the development of pinhole leaks, causing detrimental consequences to ceilings and walls. Though re-plumbing an entire home might be a substantial expense, the gradual replacement of copper pipes with corrosion-resistant plastic PEX pipes is a prudent choice that promises long-term benefits.

Monitor roof

The initial line of defence involves ensuring that your roof is in excellent condition. Regularly examining your roof at least twice a year is crucial, as it allows you to identify any issues that may have developed. Be attentive to signs of trouble such as missing or damaged shingles, cracks, or leaks. It is essential to address these problems promptly.

– Times Property

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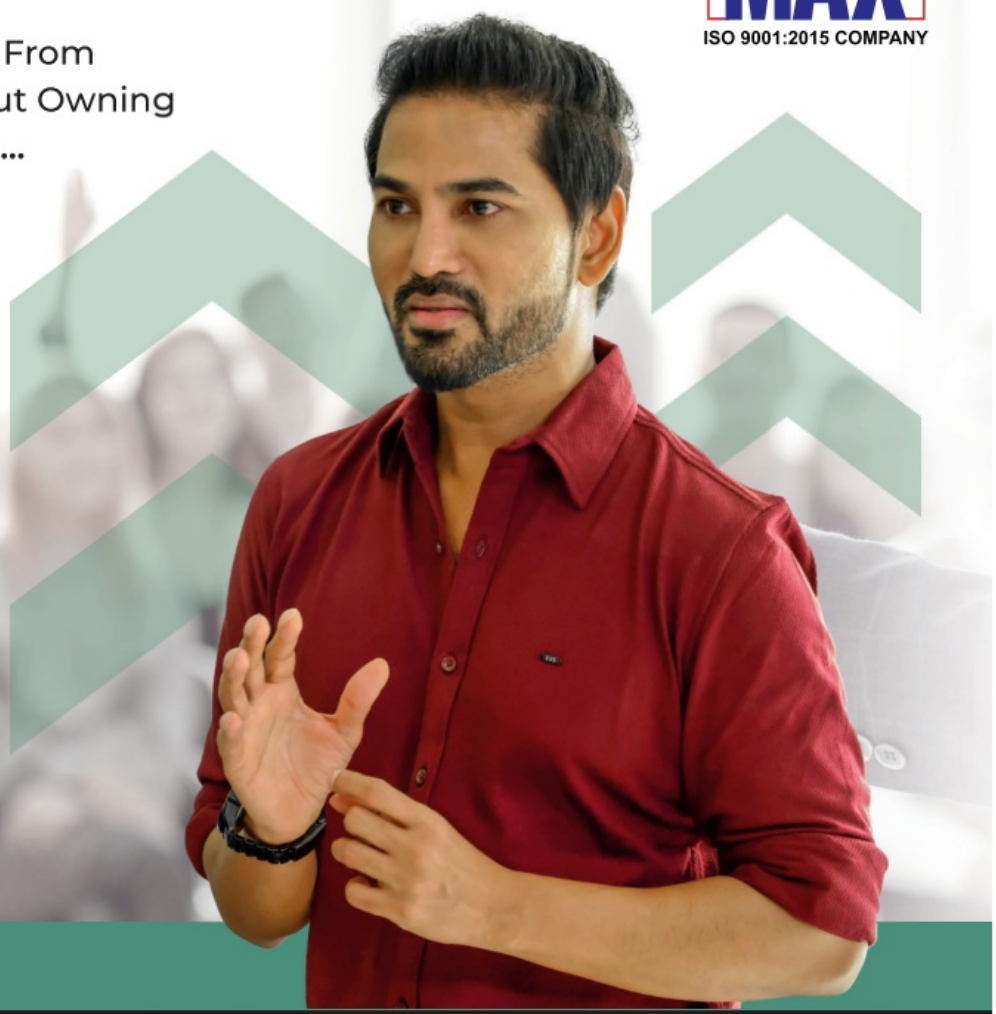

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Charging up: BMTC gets 921 new electric buses

Government to recruit 13,000 workers to enhance public transport

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The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is gearing up to induct 921 Tata Electric buses in a phased manner by March 2024. Transport Minister, Ramalinga Reddy, launched the prototype of the Tata Motors electric bus, marking the beginning of a green initiative in public transportation. Reddy stated that the State Government is providing 4000 buses and permitting the recruitment of 13000 staff to enhance the public transport system. An additional Rs 500 Crores has been extended to the Corporations to procure these buses.

Under the FAME-II scheme of the Government of India, BMTC will operate these 12.0 meters long, low-floor electric buses with a floor height of 400 mm. With comfortable seating for 35 passengers, these buses ensure easy entry and exit due to their low-floor configuration. BMTC participated in the Grand Challenge to add 1500 electric buses to its fleet.

"Each depot plays a crucial role in ensuring smooth and reliable bus services for residents of Bangalore, towards city's sustainability.
– BMTC Official

Each bus will undergo opportunity charging for 45 minutes in the ten identified depots

The operating fare for these buses will be Rs 41.01 per km under Gross Cost Contract (GCC) Model. The Ministry of Heavy Industries, Central Government, provided a subsidy for the 921 Tata Electric Buses, enabling BMTC to operate them under the Model. Each bus will undergo opportunity charging for 45 minutes, and ten depots have been identified for their operation, including Shanthinagar, Jayanagar, Hennur, Deepanjalinagar, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Peenya 2nd Stage, K R Pura, Seegehalli, and Hoskote.

"Each depot plays a crucial role in ensuring smooth and reliable bus services for the residents of Bangalore, contributing significantly to the city's mobility and sustainability goals in response to the increasing demand for public transportation", said an official. Currently, the prototype bus route 96-A operates on the route from Kempegowda Bus Stand, Sujata Talkies, Industrial Town Rajajinagar, Havanur Circle, Modi Hospital, Harishchandra Ghat, Central, and back to Kempegowda Bus Stand. The total scheduled km for this route is 202.4 km, with a single circular distance of 14.7 km.

Varthur gets fully-equipped maternity hospital

Around 25,000 families in Varthur to benefit

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The recently renovated Varthur Government Maternity Hospital is poised to offer much-needed relief to middle and lower-middle-class families in and around Varthur. The inaugural function of the hospital, attended by Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and Mahadevapura MLA Manjula Limbavali, marks a significant milestone in improving healthcare services for the community.

"The maternity hospital inaugurated on Friday will be a great help for around 25,000 families in and around Varthur," said Jagadeesh Reddy of Varthur Rising.

Previously, the hospital was in a deplorable state, with no light, ventilation, or working restrooms. The adjacent Varthur Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) was frequented by volunteers from various communities during the Covid-19 pandemic, drawing attention to the dismal condition of the maternity hospital. With poor utilization of space and inadequate facilities, the hospital struggled to cater to the growing urban and rural population from Varthur Village and its surroundings, often serving over 100 women per week under challenging conditions.

In response to the dire situation, Whitefield Rising and the Varthur local community joined forces to initiate the much-needed renovation. Special Commissioner Randeep D facilitated an MoU between Whitefield Rising and the Health and Family Welfare Department, allowing the renovation of the ground floor, while the local Varthur community took charge of the first floor's renovation.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

"The hospital was in a pathetic condition. We entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Health and Family Welfare Department for the renovation of the maternity hospital. We along with other communities raised around Rs 1 crore for renovation of the maternity hospital," said Anjali Saini of Whitefield Rising.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the community and pro-bono spatial design by architect Abhishek Mishra of White Rabbit Workshop, the Maternity Hospital has been transformed into a well-equipped facility. The ground floor now features a seven-bed wardroom and a fully equipped double-capacity labour room with baby warmers. Additionally, the hospital now boasts a triage room, laboratory, pharmacy, and a dedicated nurses' station.

On the first floor, there is ample office space, storage, a doctor's office, and a large meeting area for ASHA workers or educational events for new and expectant mothers.

Outside the building, a newly paved pathway allows ambulances to access the entrance directly. The surrounding yard has been beautifully landscaped, offering patients a safe space to move about.

To address the water problem, Sumadhura Foundation contributed a 10,000-liter sump that serves the entire facility, including the Varthur Primary Health Center. The collaborative efforts of the community and CSR funding from the Sumadhura Foundation have truly revitalized the Varthur Government Maternity Hospital, providing a clean, hygienic, and well-equipped space to cater to the healthcare needs of the local population.

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Road neglect
LN Puram

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Unsightly mess
Jayanagar

The garbage at 35th and 10th main Jayanagar, near Model Education Society School, creates an unpleasant sight for passersby.

Permenant display
Nandidurga Road

Permanent banners have been erected in front of the mosque on Nandidurga Road.

Come October, Metro to make Madavara more accessible

In a significant development for north-west Bengaluru, Metro trains will extend their route until BIEC starting from October. Metro officials have confirmed that the pending three-km track between Nagasandra and Metro stations will be made operational by September.

As a result, the green line will become the second-longest line with a Metro network spanning 34.46 km and 32 stations between Silk Institute and Madavara.

Although the project commenced in 2017 with a two-year completion deadline, it faced delays, eventually stretching into 2023. Currently, 92% of the work has been completed, and officials are optimistic about finishing the remaining portions by September. The new line will encompass three additional stations: Manjunath Nagar, Chikkabidarakallu, and Madavara.

This expansion will provide connectivity to BIEC and NICE Road, making travel from the city centre to NICE Road more convenient while also bringing outskirts like Nelamangala and other areas closer. An official stated, "We are planning to conclude the work by August so that we can commence operations in September. Land acquisition issues for NICE Road caused delays in the project."

Realtors predict that the Metro will have a positive impact on property values, and in addition, the property market will also receive a boost due to the rise of flexible office spaces. According to a survey conducted by CBRE, the increasing use of flexible office spaces is becoming a prominent short-term portfolio strategy.

The survey highlights that as organisations implement hybrid work environments in their Return to Office plans, occupiers will seek a balance between flexibility and ensuring consistent occupancy to optimize their workspace effectively. Consequently, occupiers will prioritise formulating hybrid working rules and policies that align with their business objectives while meeting the needs of their workforce.

To address the challenges faced by new hires in terms of onboarding, collaboration, cultural integration, and visibility, occupiers are expected to assign them to a specific physical office location.

This approach received support from 65% of the survey respondents. Remote hiring strategies are projected to incorporate a combination of work-from-home (WFH) arrangements and satellite offices. This enables new employees to periodically visit the office, fostering connections with colleagues and facilitating familiarity with the company's practices and culture.

The hybrid approach was favored by 35 pc of the respondents. "Enhancing the employee experience is a crucial aspect of Return to Office planning, influenced by shared work experiences and relationships.

The survey reveals that occupiers prioritize strategies such as integrating employee well-being into workplace and workforce strategies (74% of respondents), granting greater flexibility through organizational policy changes (70% of respondents), engaging all stakeholders to redefine office purposes and designs (60% of respondents), and equipping people managers with coaching and upskilling to effectively manage hybrid teams (56% of respondents)," the report said.

–Prakash VL

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

WET SEASON

A millipede moving on a plant stem

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Varun Nag Sai DL**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

Banashankari is one of the most popular localities in south Bengaluru. It is said that the locality received its name from Banashaankari Amma Temple, which was built in 1915. Interestingly, Banashankari remains the only locality in Bengaluru that has stage, block, and phase as area classifications. The area is also known to have more popular temples like Kumara Swamy Devasthana, Varasiddhi Vinayaka Temple, Narasimha Temple, and more. It is well connected through various modes of transportation, like the metro and buses. It connects areas like Kanakapura Road, JP Nagar, Jayanagar, and more.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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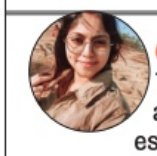
where Bengalureans speak their mind

What are the methods and practices that can be implemented to lessen mosquito menace in the city?

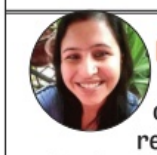


Chandini Rao, BM Reader
To ensure smooth rainwater flow and prevent waterlogging, it is essential to regularly clean the rain gutters. Additionally, proper disposal of garbage at designated locations will help maintain cleanliness.

Aditya Kamble, BM Reader
The most common and straightforward approach to combating mosquito-related issues is to prevent water stagnation in and around our homes. Clearing of accumulated water during the rainy season is crucial.

Hemanth D Pai, BM Reader
The open drains, which are the prime breeding grounds for mosquitoes, should be covered to prevent mosquito breeding. Measures should be taken to avoid the accumulation of stagnant water.

Balaji M, BM Reader
To combat mosquitoes, it is essential to eliminate standing water, use mosquito repellents, employ larvicides, promote mosquito-eating predators, install screens, and educate the public about mosquito prevention.



Daisy Sarma, BM Reader
The practice of mosquito control or mosquito fogging is essential to reducing the mosquito menace in the city. Regular fogging can help keep our surroundings clean and effectively control mosquito populations.

Bhavani C, BM Reader
To reduce adult mosquito populations in affected areas, it is crucial to implement mosquito control measures such as fogging and spraying insecticides.

SPEAK TO US

Tell us about your one traffic nightmare experience in the city.

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Celebration for no reason

Residents complain of constant bursting of crackers at night in Tilak Nagar

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Residents of Tilak Nagar are facing sleepless nights due to the incessant bursting of crackers in their neighbourhood. They have urged both the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the police to take immediate action against this nuisance.

Devi S, a resident of the area, expressed her frustration, stating, "For many weeks now, we have been startled by people bursting crackers late into the night. It's perplexing because there are no cricket matches or weddings happening. The loud bursts of crackers are undoubtedly disturbing our sleep. On several occasions, these crackers are ignited even after midnight when the surroundings are calm, making even the slightest sound magnify into a significant disruption. Our peaceful sleep is being severely compromised due to these incessant bursts."

Other residents added that awareness programmes should be initiated in order to prevent such activities.

Anil Kumar, another resident, said, "While it's common to witness crackers during Deepavali, we now hear them go off during other events like festivals, cricket matches, or weddings. While they may bring joy to those igniting them, they pose danger and annoyance to onlookers and neighbours. Since there are no strict rules to prevent such activities, the civic agency should initiate awareness programmes. This issue particularly affects students studying at home, as they struggle to concentrate amid the constant disruptions. In the past, we have even experienced instances where crackers burst inside colleges, causing disturbances in classrooms. Thankfully, such incidents have reduced lately, but the peace of the neighbourhood remains compromised."

On several occasions, crackers are ignited even after midnight in the area

Residents highlight that during Deepavali or other occasions, there is a conscious effort to promote green crackers, which emit less smoke and sound. However, most shops continue to sell non-green crackers. Additionally, while the number of cracker shops tends to surge during the Deepavali festival, there has been an increase in shops that operate throughout the year, indicating a consistent demand for crackers beyond the festive season. Residents emphasise that during Deepavali, there used to be a restriction on bursting crackers after 9 pm, but now, such regulations seem to be lacking, leading them to call for a ban on year-round cracker bursting.

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Bengaluru first city to be part of World Cities Culture Forum

Bengaluru became the first city in the country to be inducted into the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF) on Thursday. WCCF was established by the mayor of London in 2012. The city is the 41st member in the forum.

WCCF has stated that Bengaluru city leaders will work along with counterparts from other places, including cities like Tokyo, New York and London for the growth and development of the city. WCCF plans to work closely with the Unboxing BLR foundation. This not-for-profit initiative aims to make the city vibrant, inclusive and global.

Kartik Shukla, a vocalist, said, "We have good evidence from Bengaluru that there was a significant shift from IT hubs to entertainment hubs after the start of numerous events like the G20 summit and a few events like Under25, Bangalore Literature Festival, IPL 2023, Business Festivals, etc.

The city was giving a lot of opportunities to artists and the people are making organisation conduct local events so that they can find artists in every locality."

Sharmila Mukherjee, an Oddissi dancer said that today, traditional and contemporary arts go hand in hand. "Bengaluru is not primarily an IT city. Art and culture is a part of our life. This will put Bengaluru in world map culture." **BMB**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Divyashree Madhushekar W/O, Chickmagulur Murthy Madhushekar R/o No 57, 19th D Cross, 7th Main, Btm 2nd Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560076 have changed my name to Divyashree Krishnamurthy

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SRINIVASMURTHY M C R/o: No 05, Muddanahalli, Rajanukunte Post, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064. I have Changed my Name Srinivasmurthy M C to Srinivasmurthy M C for all purposes.

I, Geetanjali Purty D/o Pardan Purty, Present Residence No. 9/5, 3rd E Cross, 18th Main 2nd Stage, Btm Layout, Bengaluru, Pin: 560076, Karnataka, India, have changed my name from Purty Geetanjali Pardan to Geetanjali Purty for all future purpose. Purty Geetanjali Pardan and Geetanjali Purty Both are Same Person.

I, Chhaganlal Purohit R/o #24 8th cross, Cubbonpet, B'lore-560002 have changed my minor daughter name from Kavitha to Kavita Purohit.

I, OGADRAM S/o. Ratanlalji Choudhary, residing at #U-17, 3rd Cross, 2nd Main, Nagendra Garden, Srirampuram, Bengaluru 560021 have changed my name to OGADRAM CHOUDHARY vide affidavit dated 28.07.2023 before notary Gangaraju B.N, Bangalore.

I, Salauddeen Lane Sardar S/o Sardar Ahamed Lane Sardar R/o 5, 8th cross, H.Siddaiah road, Wilson garden, Bengaluru 560030 have my name to Salauddin Lane Sardar (L S Salauddin) Affidavit Dt.24/07/2022 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, SWETA ROBEY w/o Ananth Kumar R/o 806, 5th cross,10th main, Near Dass suites, 4th Block, Koramangala Bengaluru 560034 have changed my name to SHWETHA affidavit Dt.28/07/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, NAVEEN S/o. KANNAYA DEVANANI, D.O.B: 25.08.1993, Residing at No. C-903 C Tower ETA star Garden Apt Binnystone Garden Magadi Road Bengaluru-560023, have changed my name to NAVEEN DEVNANI, vide affidavit dated: 19.07.2023 before notary CHANDRAKALA, Bengaluru.

I, DEEPAK, S/o Gurvinder Chadha, R/o Flat #603, C-Block Wilson Manor Apartment, Arekepanahalli, 13th Cross Road, Jayanagar, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru - 560027, have changed my name as DEEPAK CHADHA, vide affidavit dated 28.07.2023, sworn before notary Y.V. Shankar, Bengaluru.

I Vasanthala Alisha W/o Muppidi Venkata Diwakar Rao R/O Flat No. 72301 Nikoo-1 Bhartiya City Bangalore Karnataka-560064, do hereby declare that I have change my name Muppidi Vasanthala Alisha, the names Vasanthala Alisha and Muppidi Vasanthala Alisha relates to one and same person. Affidavit No-282 dated 28/10/2021 .

I, SHREEDEVI G D, residing at #5/3, P-S, KPC Colony, Kadra, Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka here by declare that SREEDEVI G D and SHREEDEVI G D both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dt 17.06.2023 Notary Pradeep B Tandel, Karwar.

I, MONIKA LAKSHMI N, D/o K. Narayana Swamy, R/o Gangaparameshwari Nilaya, Ground Floor, Kadugodi Plantation, Channasandra, Bengaluru – 560067 have changed my name as MONIKA LAKSHMI K N, vide affidavit dated 28.07.2023 sworn before notary Y.V. Shankar, Bengaluru.

I Kamasamudram Nagendra Prasad Sundara Rao S/o K Sundar Rao R/o 37/57, 2nd Cross, Maruthinagar, Madiwala Extn, Bangalore have changed my name to Nagendra Prasad Krishnaiah Sundar Rao

I Sunitha w/o Vijay Kumar C R/o # 14 3rd Main 4th Cross, Near St anne Public School BSK 3rd Stage B'luru-560085 have changed my name to R Sunitha for all Purposes.

I Nahida Shaikh W/O, Samuel Wankhade R/o Skyline Beverly Park, Amruthahalli Main Rd, Bengaluru-92 have changed my name to Nahida Samuel Wankhade for all purposes.

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A tribute to mother

KAUSALYA SUPRAJA RAMA
3.5 RATING ★★★½☆
- **DIRECTOR** Shashank
- **ACTORS** Darling Krishna, Milana Nagaraj, Brinda Acharya, Nagabhushan, Rangayana Raghu
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 146 minutes

The movie begins with Santhu (Nagabhushan), a prospective bridegroom, busy selecting a ring for his betrothal with his lover and her parents. He receives a phone call from a police inspector asking him to come to a hospital where Ram (Darling Krishna) is admitted for head injuries. Santhu's future in-laws, after coming to know that Ram who was attacked with a beer bottle by his wife Muttu Lakshmi (Milana Nagaraj) is Santhu's brother-in-law, decide to cancel their daughter's betrothal with him.

Santhu tries his best to convince his future in-laws but in vain. He narrates the story of his brother-in-law Ram to them. At this juncture the camera shifts focus to a school where a play - Draupadi Vastrapaharanam - is in progress. Ram, Siddegowda's (Rangayana Raghu) son plays Draupadi. Siddegowda, who is a male chauvinist, takes his son Ram out of the auditorium. He advises his son to treat women as servants. Ram follows his father's advice and treats his mother Supraja (Sudha Belawadi) as a servant rather than a mother.

Later, Santhu explains how Ram tried to maintain a safe distance from girls during his college days and how Shivani (Brinda Acharya) meets Ram. Both fall in love and Shivani tries her best to adapt herself with Ram. But Shivani is forced to announce a break up with Ram.

Meanwhile, Supraja passes away. Ram comes to know that his mother wanted him to marry Muttu Lakshmi (Milana Nagaraj), a MBBS student. He gets married to Muttu Lakshmi. What happens to Ram and Muttu Lakshmi is what Kausalya Supraja Rama is all about.

Director Shashank deserves appreciation for handling the movie, which is filled with love and emotions, with aplomb. Darling Krishna plays the lead character that has two shades. His dancing skills are good. Brinda Acharya looks pretty and is very good in romantic scenes. Milana Nagaraj has played a different kind of role (an alcohol addict).

Nagabhushan provides comic relief while Rangayana Raghu, Achyuth Kumar and Sudha Belawadi are good support. Music by Arjun Janya is good.

All in all, it is worth a watch by all, especially those who want to know the value of a mother.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

You have been hacked!

DIAMOND CROSS
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Ramdeep Ramegowda
- **ACTORS** Roger Narayan, Roopika, Rajath Annappa, Manu K M
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 126 minutes

The movie revolves around cyber crime police, a group of youngsters who become hackers by accident, and a professional hacker who goes to any extent to practise his vice.

The story begins with the murder of a bank manager in Manipal. The government suspects professional hackers are behind the murder and hand the case over to the cyber crime police. The team led by Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Abhyankar (Roger Narayan) begins the investigation of the murder and hacking of bank accounts. The police suspect Master Devil aka MD (Manu KM) to be behind the cyber crimes. Later, the police nab Anand Swaroop (Rajath Annappa) and begin interrogation. He explains to the ACP how he came to Bengaluru from Madikeri and the circumstances that made him stay with three youngsters. What happens to Anand Swaroop is what Diamond Cross is all about.

The movie takes off well with Roger Narayan and his team trying to nab the hackers. But the director fails to ensure the narration is crisp. Some of the scenes, including the scene where the hero rescues one of the youngsters from rowdy elements and the other scene where the hero and his accomplices hack a water board server, are far from convincing. However, the director deserves credit for training Manu KM, who plays the villain. It is said Manu is basically a farmer from Channarayapatna. Manu deserves a pat on the back for his acting skills.

As far as the performance of the other actors is concerned, Roger Narayan as an ACP is convincing. His body language and dialogue delivery deserve appreciation. Rajath Annappa, as a young and energetic intelligent youth, is convincing. Roopika, who makes a comeback to Sandalwood after three years, has nothing to do in this movie. She plays Bella Joseph, a victim of cyber crime.

All in all, it is worth watching to know about the hacking menace.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Just JOMO

What Aditya Roy Kapur feels about not settling down yet

Aditya Roy Kapur is currently lapping up all the accolades and appreciation coming his way thanks to the super success of his first OTT show The Night Manager, which was based on a British show of the same name. But over the last few weeks the actor has been more in the news over his friendship with Ananya Panday. The duo was recently spotted in Spain by their fans.

Asked if there are any plans of him settling down, he states, "All my contemporaries are getting married, but I'm not feeling any FOMO (Fear of Missing Out). As of now there is only JOMO (Joy of Missing Out). Whenever things are going to happen, they will happen. I'm not losing my sleep over it."

Talking about his relationship status, Aditya exclusively told ETimes, "I think we should let it remain a topic of discussion. As long as it is being discussed it is a good thing. Conjecture is good, let things flow naturally." Also in today's day and age when most actors are present on social media, some very clued in and some not, Aditya falls in the latter category. Be present or not, there is no way one can run away from the trolling that happens.

Aditya has his own way of dealing with it. He says, "I'm not very active on it, so I haven't gone through much of it. I anyway post things very sporadically. But to be very honest, I don't check the reactions. Sometimes people do send me screenshots like quirky ones etc. Thankfully they filter out the negative ones. (Ignorance is bliss in that sense). But basically I don't engage with them because if you do then you are buying into their narrative and you are allowing it to affect you."

—ETimes

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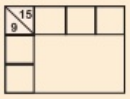
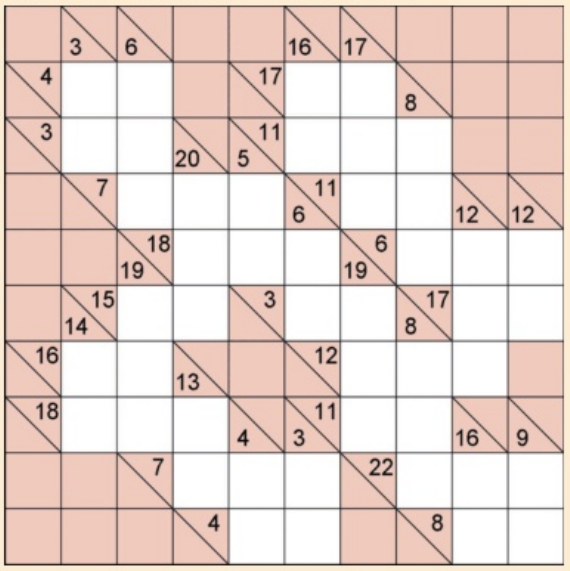
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

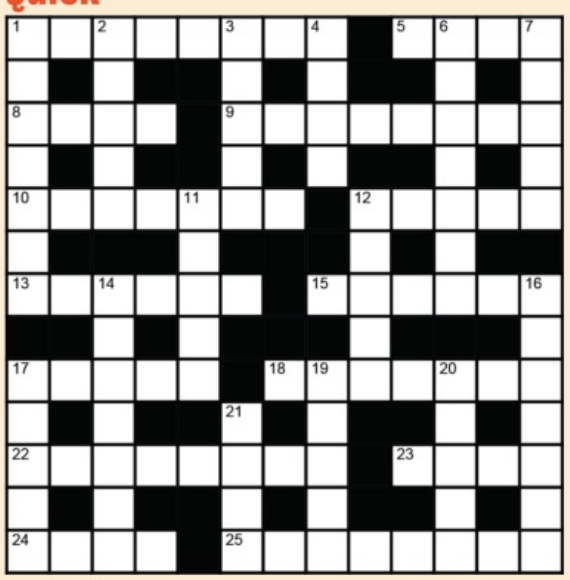


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Tear down (8)
5 With competence (4)
8 Indian monarch or king (4)
9 Unusual or eccentric (8)
10 War horse (7)
12 Bodies of water (5)
13 Sleeps loudly, should we say? (6)
15 Aromas (6)
17 Avian sound (5)
18 Forces or bullies (7)
22 Government building that offers a view of Ulsoor Lake on one side and the Bangalore Race Course on the other (4,4)
23 Popular fertilizer (4)
24 Fathers (4)
25 Simple arithmetic (8)

DOWN

1 Commands, controls or governs (7)
2 Laila's counterpart (5)
3 Furious (5)
4 Clock pointer (4)
6 Yokel (7)
7 Shouts (5)
11 Used up (5)
12 French school (5)
14 Like a cyclops? (3-4)
16 Uphold, support or bear (7)
17 Diffident (5)
19 Greased (5)
20 Welsh breed of dog (5)
21 Israel's ___ Strip (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS S

QARK MAOEPNRDKUAOR DNP RUQWHJ QAOAHAXSPR VPHUEPNPV UO KZP WNPR-POMP AL BUKOPRRPR.

Linemaro

You are the closest to heaven that I'll ever be

Mindchow

Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood

Joke of the day

What happened when the wheel was invented? It caused a revolution

Loop

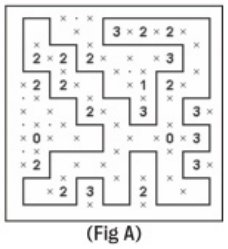
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

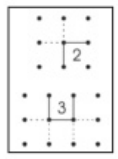
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

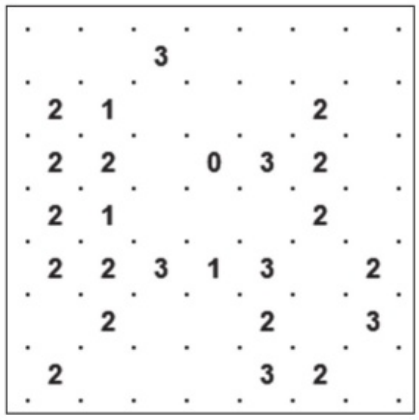
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



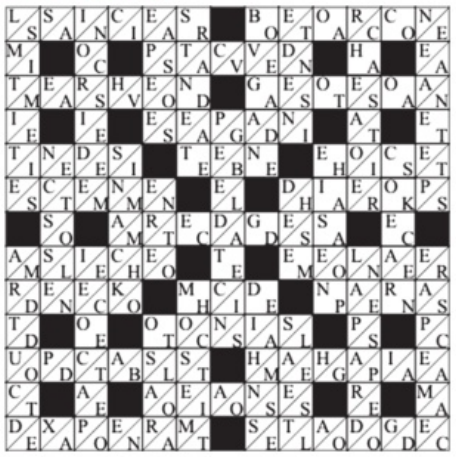
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



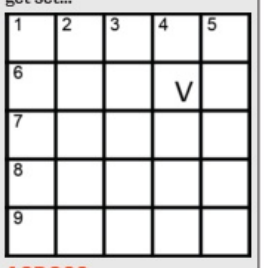
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 A doll; 6 V Lara; 7 Or gin; 8 Genoa; 9 Slope

DOWN

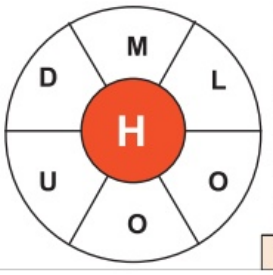
1 A gall; 2 Goral; 3 Do Pro; 4 Envoi; 5 Leans

Mensapuzzle

Find the 10-letter word.

_R_D_I_G_Y

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

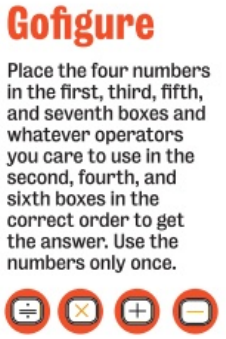
SudokuChallenge

	1		4		5			
9				1		6		
3		2	8				7	4
5		4						
			5		3			
						3		1
4	8				7	2		3
		5		6				7
			2		9		4	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 19

2 3 4 9

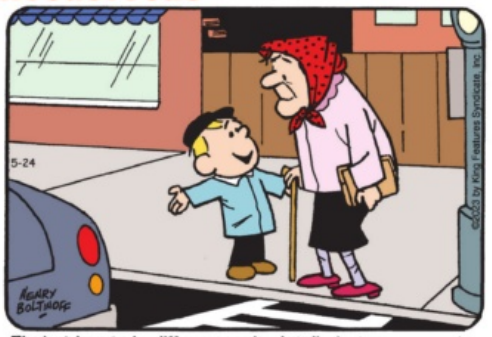
Medium = 11

3 3 5 7

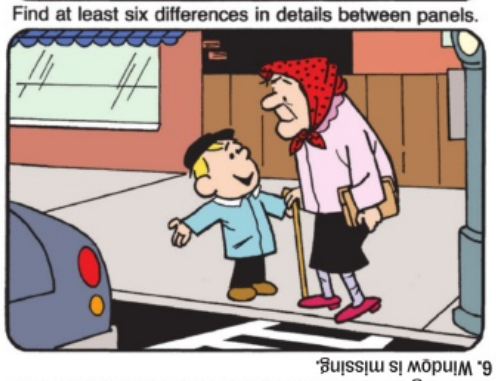
Hard = 4

2 7 8 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cane is moved. 2. Arm is lower. 3. Awning is wider. 4. Foot is moved. 5. Collar is different. 6. Window is missing.

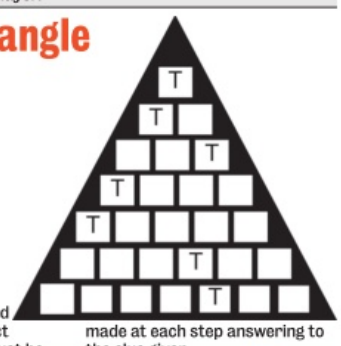
Riddler

Four well known sayings have been reworded below. Can you identify the originals? Example: Lack of awareness brings elation. (Ignorance is bliss.)

1. Stop sleeping and sniff the java.
2. Fine items approach people who have patience.
3. One should not rate a volume by the lid.
4. Progress to the rhythm of another bongo player.

Alpha triangle

1 20th letter
2 Infinitive word
3 Poppycock
4 Iliad's Helen of
5 Alps region
6 Stout, fat
7 Domestic fowl

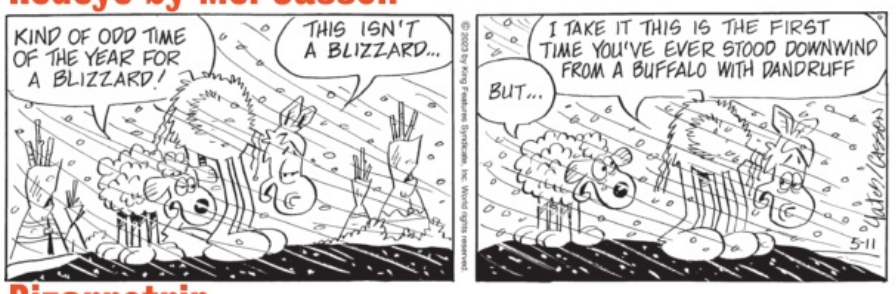


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson


KIND OF ODD TIME OF THE YEAR FOR A BLIZZARD!
THIS ISN'T A BLIZZARD...
I TAKE IT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER STOOD DOWNWIND FROM A BUFFALO WITH DANDRUFF
BUT...
5-11

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

DEAN'S PRACTICING RUNNING A MILE.
NOT A BAD IDEA USING THE BACKYARD. HE'S ONLY GOT TO RUN AROUND ABOUT FIFTY TIMES.
BUT WHAT IF HE GETS DIZZY?
I GOT DIZZY!

Crankshaft

SO HOW COME YOUR PARENTS DIDN'T PICK YOU UP AFTER SCHOOL? ARE THEY TOO LAZY?
WE DON'T HAVE A CAR.
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE STOP ALONG THE WAY SOMEWHERE FOR AN ICE CREAM CONE ON ME?
tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a favourable day for you. You are likely to get some inherited property. You may also expect to recover bad debt, which may boost your financial health. Loses are likely to convert into profits now. There may be some improvement in the relationships with the loved ones. Students will be able to choose the right career.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be busy at work. You may take some important decisions in terms of work, which may increase your business. You may also expect a big order, which may increase in the business. Disputes with the spouse will be settled now, which may create family harmony.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are blessed by elders. You may be more spiritual. You are likely to visit some religious place with family and friends. You will also plan to visit some of your elders or consultants for advice. Singles will likely find their soulmate. Love birds will be happy during dating.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel dull. You may have some mysterious fear around you. You are advised to visit some religious place or chant some prayers to come out from this messy situation. You are advised to keep an eye on opponents and business rivals, otherwise you may be a victim of conspiracy. It is advised for love birds to avoid making unnecessary arguments.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may be busy with family and friends. You may plan to go to a party, watch movies. Mutual respect may arise between couples, which may be a reason for a strong foundation of your domestic life. In the partnerships, many disputes may be resolved. Students are advised to make quick decisions in terms of their career. Love birds may make some important decisions in terms of marriage.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may perform well at work. Your bonding with the boss is likely to be improved. Your opponents and rivals are now under control. Money which was stuck, is likely to be recovered now. That may increase your liquidity in the business.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may be busy with a kid's issue. Your kid's health is likely to be improved. You may plan for a kid's academics. Couples may welcome new children into the family. You may use your presence of mind to settle the disputes in terms of business and social life.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be disappointed. You are not focused. Negative thoughts may make you upset. You are advised to connect with the positive people around. You may plan to migrate from one place to another. Job seekers may find a new job; students are advised to keep patience. Singles will likely find a good match.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you are more energetic and excited. Your focus towards your goals might be very good. Your network may help you to grow your business. You are advised to follow your intuition before making investments in fixed assets. Emotional relationship with the spouse is likely to be improved, which will maintain domestic harmony . Singles may find a soul mate with the help of siblings or friends.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today Last couple of days, you may be busy with family and friends, you will plan to go for outings . Kid's education will also make you busy. Kids' health may make you upset. You are advised to keep control on your tongue and ego, otherwise it may affect your domestic harmony.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you are advised to be careful in signing contracts, you are advised to read documents carefully before signing an important document. Due to over excitement, you can make silly mistakes. Your boss may be cooperative now. You are likely to expect to get a promotion in terms of job. Love birds are advised to avoid discussing family matters .

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may feel dull; it will make you impatient and nervous, you will criticise yourself. You are advised to keep an eye on your opponents and rivals. You shall avoid fantasy in efforts in terms of your profession. You shall postpone making new investments. You are advised to take care of your mother and elders.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
=(10*100)/100
=1000/100
=1000%

BULL'S EYE
hold, hood, HOODLUM

STRIKE OUT

L	A	N	C	E	S	■	B	E	A	C	O	N
I	■	O	■	P	A	V	E	D	■	A	■	A
■	I	■	E	A	G	A	N	■	T	■	T	■
M	E	S	H	E	D	■	G	E	T	S	O	N
I	■	I	■	E	■	A	■	T	■	T	■	T
T	E	D	S	■	T	E	N	■	H	O	S	E
■	C	■	A	■	A	E	O	N	S	■	E	M
S	C	E	N	E	■	L	■	H	A	R	K	S
■	O	■	A	R	C	A	D	E	S	■	E	■
A	L	I	■	E	■	T	■	M	O	L	A	R
D	E	■	C	K	■	M	I	D	■	N	A	N
■	E	■	T	■	O	N	A	L	■	P	■	C
U	P	C	A	S	T	■	M	A	G	P	I	E
C	■	A	■	A	E	O	N	S	■	E	■	M
L	A	N	C	E	S	■	B	E	A	C	O	N

QUICK

D	A	D	S	■	A	D	D	I	T	I	O	N
I	■	E	■	Z	■	E	■	G	■	I	■	■
M	A	V	Y	O	H	A	L	L	■	U	R	E	A
T	W	E	E	T	■	C	O	E	R	C	E	S
I	■	E	■	G	■	I	■	O	■	T	■	■
U	■	■	■	N	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	N	O	R	E	S	■	S	C	E	N	T	S
T	■	■	■	P	■	Y	■	I	■	■	■	■
C	O	U	R	S	E	R	■	L	A	K	E	S
E	■	■	■	T	■	D	■	P	■	■	■	■
R	A	J	A	■	A	B	N	O	R	M	A	L
I	■	■	■	A	■	R	■	A	■	U	■	E
D	E	M	O	L	I	S	H	■	A	B	L	Y

MENSA PUZZLE
grudging|y.

RIDDLER
1. Wake up and smell the coffee.
2. Good things come to those who wait.
3. Don't judge a book by its cover.
4. March to the beat of a different drummer.

SUDOKU

6	1	7	4	3	5	9	8	2
9	4	8	7	1	2	6	3	5
3	5	2	8	9	6	1	7	4
5	3	4	9	2	1	7	6	8
8	6	1	5	7	3	4	2	9
7	2	9	6	4	8	3	5	1
4	8	6	1	5	7	2	9	3
2	9	5	3	6	4	8	1	7
1	7	3	2	8	9	5	4	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, To, Rot, Troy, Tyrol, Portly, Poultry.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 x 2 + 4 + 9 = 19
5 x 3 + 3 – 7 = 11
Medium
7 x 8 / 2 / 7 = 4
Hard

FAST FIVE

L	A	R	V	A
A	G	R	O	N
L	O	P	E	S

QUOTE UNCODE
Most conversations are simply monologues delivered in the presence of witnesses.

KAKURO

■	■	4	3	1	■	■	■	4
■	4	1	2	■	7	8	9	7
4	1	3	■	4	9	2	5	8
1	3	■	1	2	4	■	8	9
3	■	1	2	4	■	3	1	■
■	2	4	■	1	3	■	■	■
2	1	■	3	2	■	■	■	■
1	■	3	2	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	2	1	■	■	■	■	■

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